

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. 10/603,836

Applicant: WULTEPUTTE, Lieven

Filed: June 25, 2003

TC/AU: 3752

Examiner: HOGAN, James Sean

Docket No.: 216397

Customer No.: 23460

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****AUG 23 2006**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and/or Substitute Form PTO-1449 ("Form 1449") are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form 1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form 1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that any reference listed thereon is prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that they represent art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that the references are not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- ☒ **within** any one of the following time periods: (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 of an international application; (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

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- ☐ after (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and includes *one* of:
- ☐ the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below).
- or
- ☐ the fee of \$180 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
- ☐ after the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
- ☐ after the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and **within** thirty days of receiving each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
- NOTE: This is for original applications except applications for a design patent, filed on or after May 29, 2000, wherein a paper containing only an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is being filed.

Copies of the References

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- ☒ Copies of U.S. patents and patent applications that are listed on the accompanying Form 1449 are not enclosed herewith. Copies of other references identified on the accompanying Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.
- ☒ Attached to each reference not in the English language is a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3). An English-language equivalent/patent, or an English-language abstract, or an English-language version of the search report or action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is being submitted in lieu of a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).
- ☐ Copies of foreign search reports are enclosed herewith.
- ☐ The references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d), the

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Information Disclosure Statement

details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (CHECK ONE)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

Statement under § 1.97(e)

- ☐ The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ The undersigned hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

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Fees

- ☒ No fee is owed by the applicant(s).
- ☐ The IDS Fee of \$180 under § 1.17(p) is enclosed herewith.

Method of Payment of Fees

- ☐ Attached is a check in the amount of \$180.00.
- ☐ Charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 in the amount of \$180.00. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

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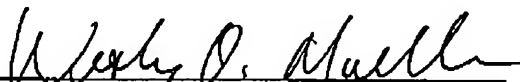
Application No. 10/603,836

Information Disclosure Statement

Instructions as to Overpayment

- ☒ Credit Account No. 12-1216.
☐ Refund.

Respectfully submitted,



Wesley O. Mueller, Registration No. 33,976

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Date: August 23, 2006

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U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

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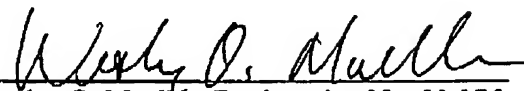
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Date: August 23, 2006

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → PTO/SB/08A/B (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0851-0031
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	10/603,836	
			Filing Date	June 25, 2003	
			First Named Inventor	WULTEPUTTE, Liewen	
			Group Art Unit	3752	
			Examiner Name	HOGAN, James Sean	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	216397

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Document Number	Kind Code			
	C1	US-	5,346,530		09-13-1994	Miller et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation Provided ²	
		Office	Number	Kind Code				Yes	No

OTHER - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number (s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation Provided ²		
			Yes	No	
	C2	Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 1999, No. 02, JP 10-305206-A (NKK Corp.) (February 26, 1999).			
	C3	European Patent Office, Search Report in European Patent Application No. 04 25 3484.2 (February 9, 2006).			

* A concise statement of relevance is being submitted in lieu of a translation. 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

+ An English-language equivalent/patent, or an English-language abstract, or an English-language version of the search report or action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is being submitted in lieu of a concise explanation of relevance under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.